

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please replace paragraph [09] with the following amended paragraph:

[09] Of the hundreds of potential polyolefin coatings, very few have produce soft feel products with flexibility and good adhesion to polyolefin woven fabrics. Polyolefin elastomers offer a reasonable chance of success for a desired coating. Traditional polyolefin elastomers include ethylene elastomers such as ~~Advantech~~ ADVANTECH® brand elastomer from DuPont, ~~Engage~~ ENGAGE® brand elastomers from Dupont Dow elastomers, and ~~Flexomer~~ FLEXOMER® brand elastomers from Union Carbide.

Please replace paragraph [10] with the following amended paragraph:

[10] An alternate to polyolefin elastomer is ~~Santoprene~~ SANTOPRENE® brand bondable thermoplastic vulcanizate (TPV). ~~Santoprene~~ SANTOPRENE® is available in many grades from Advanced Elastomer Systems (AES) of Akron, Ohio. ~~Santoprene~~ SANTOPRENE® is described as fully dynamically vulcanized EPDM rubber particles in a thermoplastic matrix of polypropylene.

Please replace paragraph [22] with the following amended paragraph:

[22] The soft tactile coatings of the present invention comprise 30 to 50% by weight elastomer and 30 to 50% by weight thermoplastic vulcanizates. Preferred elastomers include soft touch elastomers such as ~~Advantech~~ ADVANTECH™ brand polyolefin elastomer from DuPont Canada and ~~Engage~~ ENGAGE® brand polyolefin elastomer from DuPont Dow Elastomers. When used in extrusion coating lines, suitable elastomers are those with relatively low melt index (e.g. 5.0 or lower). For example, ~~Advantech~~ ADVANTECH™ 7701 is a suitable polyolefin elastomer with a melt index of <1 per ASTM D2240. Such elastomers provide good melt strength that is advantageous in high speed coating lines as well as uniform die flow.

Please replace paragraph [24] with the following amended paragraph:

[24] Preferred thermoplastic vulcanizates include the ~~Santoprene~~ SANTOPRENE® brand

thermoplastic vulcanizates available from Advanced Elastomer Systems and the HiLast™ brand thermoplastic vulcanizates available from HiTech Polymers. Suitable grades include those with a Shore A hardness from 54 to 80 ("Shore A hardness" refers to hardness measured according to ASTM D2240-85 using a Type A durometer.) For example, ~~Santoprene~~ SANTOPRENE® 8291-70 and 8691-70 are suitable grades of thermoplastic vulcanizate. Particularly preferred is grade 8691-70 due to its lighter color, although the brownish hue of 8291-70 may be desirable when for earth tone colors are being formulated. Comparable HiLast™ grades are TPV 2065, TPV 2073 and TPV 2075. Use of TPVs having a shore hardness below 54 (e.g. 30-54) may also be used with appropriate adjustments in extrusion coating equipment in order to compensate for higher melt flow rates of such TPVs. Present commercial TPVs having a hardness below 30, have a melt flow rate too high to be easily mixed with other components of the invention. Diverse melt flow rates can cause undesirable phase separation in the coating.

Please replace paragraph [27] with the following amended paragraph:

[27] The coatings may comprise other additives in amounts up to 30% by weight and include, for example, antioxidants (e.g., hindered phenols such as, for example, ~~Irganox~~ IRGANOX® 1010, and phosphites, e.g., ~~Irgafos~~ IRGAFOS® 168, (both are registered trademarks of, and supplied by Ciba-Geigy Corporation, NY), U.V. stabilizers (including ~~Tinuvin~~ TINUVIN® 328 and ~~Chimassorb~~ CHIMASSORB® 944, both are registered trademarks of, and supplied by Ciba-Geigy Corporation, NY, Ampacet Corporation UV100, based on Ciba Specialty Chemical's proprietary ~~Shelfplus~~ SHELFPLUS®), flame retardant agents (available from A. Schulman of Akron, Ohio, Clariant of Easton, Maryland and Technical Polymer Representatives of Amherst, Ohio), slip agents (such as erucamide and/or stearamide), antiblock additives, printable additives, A. Schulman paper match additives, polar additives, colorants, and pigments, to the extent that such additives do not interfere with the adhesive and soft tactile properties of the coatings.

[28] Additives may require the use of a compatible carrier copolymer. Suitable copolymers include ethylene-octene copolymers comprising 10-30% by weight octene and are available commercially as ~~Exact~~ EXACT® brand plastomers from Exxon. For example, the plastomer ~~Exact~~ EXACT® 0210 has been found suitable as a compatible carrier. Other suitable carriers

include polypropylene homopolymer compatible with the thermoplastic vulcanizate portion of the coating. U.S. Patent 6,486,278 further discloses methods of producing ethylenic plastomers.